# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# FINANCE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4229
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2007
HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Universal Health Insurance Scheme implemented in 2003 by the Government has not achieved its goal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of families benefited under the said scheme during the last three years vis a-vis target of each year, State-wise; and

(d) the fresh steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide benefit of the said scheme to more and more poor families?

## Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MIINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) The Universal Health Insurance Scheme was first launched in July,2003 and out of a total of 3,37,385 families covered till March 2004, BPL families were only 9252. Since the scheme did not get the response as envisaged at the time of its launch, it was redesigned in 2004-05 with increased subsidy of Rs 200/, Rs 300/ and Rs. 400/ for an individual, for a family of five members and for a family of seven members out of a total premium of Rs.365/, Rs 548/ and Rs.730/ respectively. The performance under the scheme has been improving over the last 3 years.

(b) The main reasons for the slow progress under the Scheme inter-alia relate to
(i) lack of awareness and affordability of the BPL families;
(ii) lack of reach of insurance companies in the rural areas;
(iii) low premium structure makes it cost prohibitive for the insurance companies to effectively canvass the scheme;
(iv) inadequate health infrastructure in the rural areas;
(v) difficulty in identification of BPL families; and
(vi) inadequate response from the State Governments in the implementation of UHIS in its existing form.

(c) State wise target has not been fixed. However, the State-wise coverage under the scheme for the last three years is annexed.

(d) State Governments and State Chief Secretaries have been advised to take keen interest in making the Scheme a success. Non-life Public Sector Insurance Companies have also been advised to take pro-active steps for improving the coverage under the Scheme.